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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **TELSIS HOLDINGS LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Barnes Wallis Road, Segensworth East, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 5TT (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **HILL, Tony, Francis** [GB/GB]; 34 Plough Way, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 4PW (GB). **WILSON, Jeffrey** [GB/GB]; 53 Kiln Road, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 70H (GB).

(74) Agent: **D YOUNG & CO**; 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2DY (GB).

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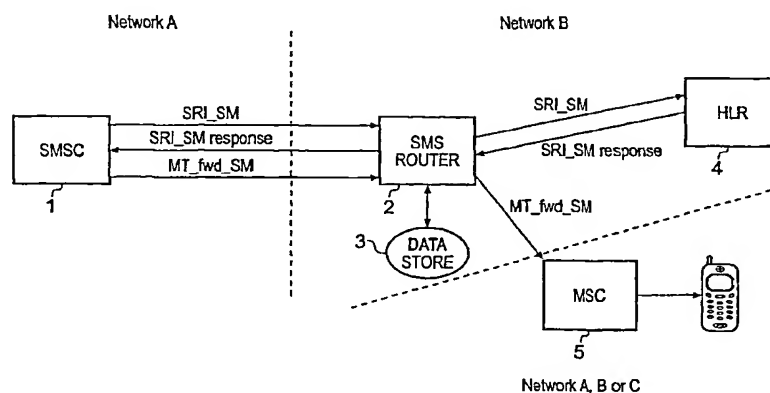
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(54) Title: **TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES APPARATUS AND METHODS**



(57) Abstract: A telecommunications services apparatus, in a mobile telecommunications network, comprises means (2) for receiving a MAP Send Routing Information for Short Message (SRI\_SM message) originating from another network and operate to forward the SRI\_SM message to a home location register (4), means for receiving a response from the home location register (4) to the SRI\_SM message, means for temporarily storing information relating to the SRI\_SM response and operable to pass said response on to a network address identified as the originating address, and means for receiving a MAP Mobile Terminated Forward Short Message (MT\_Fwd\_SM message) from the other network and operable to correlate the MT\_Fwd\_SM message with a previously-sent SRI\_SM response using stored information. The apparatus is operable to detect and selectively reject MT\_Fwd\_SM messages for which there is at least insufficient correlation between the MT\_Fwd\_SM message and the previously-sent SRI\_SM response, and to pass other MT\_Fwd\_SM messages on to their respective destinations. The apparatus may include means for modifying IMSI information in the SRI\_SM response, which may be operable to store information relating to the modified SRI\_SM response and operable to pass the modified response on to the originating address network. In that case, the correlation determination may be made between the MT\_Fwd\_SM message and a previously-sent modified SRI\_SM response.